

Questions from Potential Applicants & Answers

June 27, 2012

1. Are for profit agencies eligible to apply for this funding?
Only the 18 state, local, or territorial health departments specifically named in the announcement are eligible to apply. The eligible organizations are listed on page 42 of the announcement.
2. Is this funding from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Prevention and Public Health Fund?
No, this funding is available through the HHS Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative and not from the ACA's Prevention and Public Health Fund.
3. What qualifies as a CBO? (Page 16-17) This list does not mention FQHCs, CHCs and Universities and other educational institutions that are non-profit but may not fit the traditional definition of a CBO.

Community Based Organizations include the following: nonprofit organizations with 501 (c)(3) IRS status (other than institutions of higher learning), hospitals, clinics, and faith based organizations. Therefore federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and community health centers (CHCs) would qualify as CBOs. A CBO must (1) be positioned to provide services directly to clients and (2) must be recognized by members of the community as credible health or social service providers. Colleges, universities, and research institutions do not qualify as CBOs. This however, doesn't preclude universities from being partners or otherwise involved in the demonstration project via agreements with the grantee.

4. Can the following activities be funded?
 - a. This announcement does not specify a targeted positivity rate as other recent CDC announcements have. Should we interpret this as supporting broad-based testing of Black and Latino populations without specific targeting of populations?
 - b. The list of exclusions does not mention housing. Is temporary housing an accepted cost as a strategy to help retain people in care?
 - c. STD and Hepatitis screening in addition to HIV testing

The emphasis for this FOA is on developing systems to identify, link, engage, or re-engage large numbers of HIV-positive persons by addressing social and structural determinants of health – and to do that by making decisions that are appropriate for the jurisdiction and that are consistent with the principles of high impact prevention. Each applicant should present a work plan that accomplishes this goal in the best way possible and provide justification for the choices made. After funding, grantees will work collaboratively with CDC to refine their proposed approaches. Broad based testing, housing, and STD or hepatitis screening would all be allowable under this initiative if appropriately justified.

5. Are there any prohibitions for the state health department to distribute some of these funds to directly funded city jurisdictions?

No, the emphasis for this FOA is on developing systems to identify, link, engage, or re-engage large numbers of HIV-positive persons by addressing social and structural determinants of health – and to do that by making decisions that are appropriate for the jurisdiction and that are consistent with the principles of high impact prevention. Health Departments are not prohibited from distributing funds to directly funded city jurisdictions so long as their work plans adhere to the basic tenants of the FOA. However, as noted in the section describing funding restrictions (p.56), supplanting of federal funds is restricted.

6. Does CDC have any preferences about states funding directly funded city jurisdictions with PS12-1210 funds?

No, see #5 above.

7. What does “incentivized programs” mean related to implementing testing initiatives in particular venues? (Page 25 – 26) Do you have any guidance or articles you might point to as examples of what the CDC has in mind?

These types of programs incentivize either the client or the provider to improve uptake of HIV testing. This was included in the optional activities section because this is an activity that some jurisdictions have undertaken in previous testing initiatives (e.g., incentivized testing in highest risk areas reached by mobile van).

8. In one section, it states that CDC Assurances and Certifications must be printed, scanned, and uploaded as an attachment (see below); aren’t these certifications “approved” through the grants.gov submission process? Or do we need to secure a signature from an authorized official and attach? I didn’t see these documents referenced again as part of the required Attachments?

A PGO official will address this question on the call on June 28th.

“Content and Form of Application Submission

Unless specifically indicated, this announcement requires submission of the following information:

All applicants are required to sign and submit CDC Assurances and Certifications that can be found on the CDC Web site at the following Internet address: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/grants/foamain.shtm>

Print, scan and upload as an additional attachment into the application package.”

9. In the Budget section, it refers to “Funds must be included for two to three persons to attend quarterly meetings convened by CDC with all grantees.” Please verify if these meetings will be held quarterly or annually.

Meetings will be held annually. The FOA will be amended to rectify this discrepancy.

10. Would 4th Generation testing equipment be an allowable expense under this grant?

Yes, this type of equipment is allowable if justified by your work plan (see p. 56).